

We claim:

1. A fabric comprising:

5 a plurality of spun warp yarns interwoven with a plurality of filament filling
yarns in a fancy weave construction, said fabric having Kawabata System MIU
values for each of fabric face and back of greater than .23, and a difference in
SMD surface roughness between the face and back of the fabric of less than 1.5.

10 2. The fabric according to Claim 1, wherein said each of the fabric
face and back have MIU values of greater than .25.

15 3. The fabric according to Claim 1, wherein the fabric warp consists
essentially of spun yarns.

20 4. The fabric according to Claim 1, wherein the fabric filling consists
essentially of filament yarns.

25 5. The fabric according to Claim 4, wherein said filament yarns
comprise broken filament yarns.

30 6. The fabric according to Claim 1, wherein said fancy weave
construction is selected from the group consisting of dobby weave fabrics and
jacquard weave fabrics.

35 7. The fabric according to Claim 1, wherein the surface hand of the
face of the fabric is approximately equal to the surface hand of the back of the
fabric.

40 8. A method of making fancy woven fabrics having superior aesthetic
characteristics comprising the steps of:

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providing a fancy woven fabric having spun warp yarns and filament filling yarns;

hydraulically treating the fabric so as to form a nap on portions of said fancy woven fabric where the filament filling yarns are predominant.

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9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of hydraulically treating the fabric comprises impacting both sides of the fabric with jets of fluid.

10. The method according to Claim 9, wherein said step of hydraulically treating the fabric comprises impacting one side of the fabric with jets of fluid at a first pressure, and impacting the other side of the fabric with jets of fluid at a second pressure which is less than said first pressure.

11. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of hydraulically treating the fabric comprises hydraulically treating the fabric such that the hand of the fabric face is approximately equal to the hand of the fabric back.

12. The method according to Claim 11, wherein said step of hydraulically treating the fabric is performed such that each side of said fabric has a Kawabata System MIU value of greater than about .25.

13. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of hydraulically treating the fabric is performed such that the difference between the Kawabata System SMD values for the fabric face and back is less than about 2.

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14. The method according to Claim 13, wherein said step of hydraulically treating the fabric is performed such that the difference between the Kawabata System SMD values for the fabric face and back is less than about 1.

15. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of hydraulically treating the fabric is performed such that the difference between the Kawabata System SMD values for the fabric face and back is less than about .5.

16. A napped fancy woven fabric having filament yarns in the filling, wherein the surface hand of the face of the fabric is approximately equal to the surface hand of the back of the fabric.

17. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein the tensile strength of the napped fabric in the filling direction is at least about 50% of its pre-napped strength.

18. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein the tensile strength of the napped fabric in the filling direction is at least about 75% of its pre-napped strength.

19. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein the tensile strength of the napped fabric in the filling direction is at least as great as its pre-napped strength.

20. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein the tensile strength of the napped fabric in the filling direction is at least about 50% of its pre-napped strength, and the tensile strength of the napped fabric in the filling direction is at least about 75% of its pre-napped strength.

21. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein said fabric has a shear stiffness of less than about 1.7.

22. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein said fabric has a shear stiffness of less than about 1.5.

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23. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein said fabric has a MIU of greater than about .25 on both sides.

24. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein said fabric has a MIU of greater than about .265 on both sides.

25. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein said fabric has an SMD value on each surface of less than about 12.

10 26. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein said fabric has a MIU of greater than about .25 on both sides and the tensile strength of the napped fabric in the filling direction is at least about 50% of its pre-napped strength.

15 27. The fabric according to Claim 26, wherein the napped fabric has a tensile strength in the filling direction which is at least about 75% of its pre-napped strength.

20 28. The fabric according to Claim 27, wherein the tensile strength of the napped fabric in the warp direction is at least about 75% of its pre-napped strength.

29. An item of napery made from the fabric of Claim 16.

25 30. A curtain made from the fabric of Claim 16.

31. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein the fabric warp consists essentially of spun yarns.

30 32. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein the fabric filling consists essentially of filament yarns.

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33. The fabric according to Claim 16, wherein said fabric is in a dobby or jacquard weave construction.

5 34. A method for improving the hand of a fancy woven fabric having spun yarns in the warp and filament yarns in the filling comprising the step of:
hydraulically treating the fabric to push fiber loops from said spun yarns over said filament yarns, to thereby provide a nap on said filament yarns without significantly reducing the strength of the fabric.

10 35. The method according to Claim 34, wherein said hydraulic treatment is performed such that the tensile strength of the napped fabric in the filling direction is at least about 50% of its pre-napped strength.

15 36. The method according to Claim 34, wherein said hydraulic treatment is performed such that the tensile strength of the napped fabric in the filling direction is at least about 75% of its pre-napped strength.
